



הַמָּלִט עַל-נַפְשְׁךָ אֶל-תְּבִיט אַחֲרֶיךָ

“Escape for thy life; look not behind thee” - Genesis 19

A Tale of 2 Cities.

The Old Testament tells a terrifying tale of 2 cities – Sodom and Gomorrah. The purpose of this scripture in Genesis 19 about these 2 cities is to show what happens to a society that is consumed with evil and complete rebellion. These doomed cities were located in the region of the Dead Sea

chosen by Lot, Abraham’s brother Haran’s son, and his family. 4,000 years later, these 2 cities are still well known and symbolic for complete annihilation by God. To this day, on the southern shores of the Dead Sea there is a massive, gaping hole submerged in the land where these cities once were.

Sodom & Gomorrah

The symbolism of these 2 cities is significant. Sodom סְדֹם means “burning, scorched” and Gomorrah עֲמֹרָה means “Submerged”. These horrible names not only resemble the area of the Dead Sea which is very hot and smells of salt, but they also foreshadow the fate of their wickedness and rebellion to God. Moreover, these cities were located submerged in the lowest part of the world which is one thousand four hundred feet below sea level!

The City of Zion

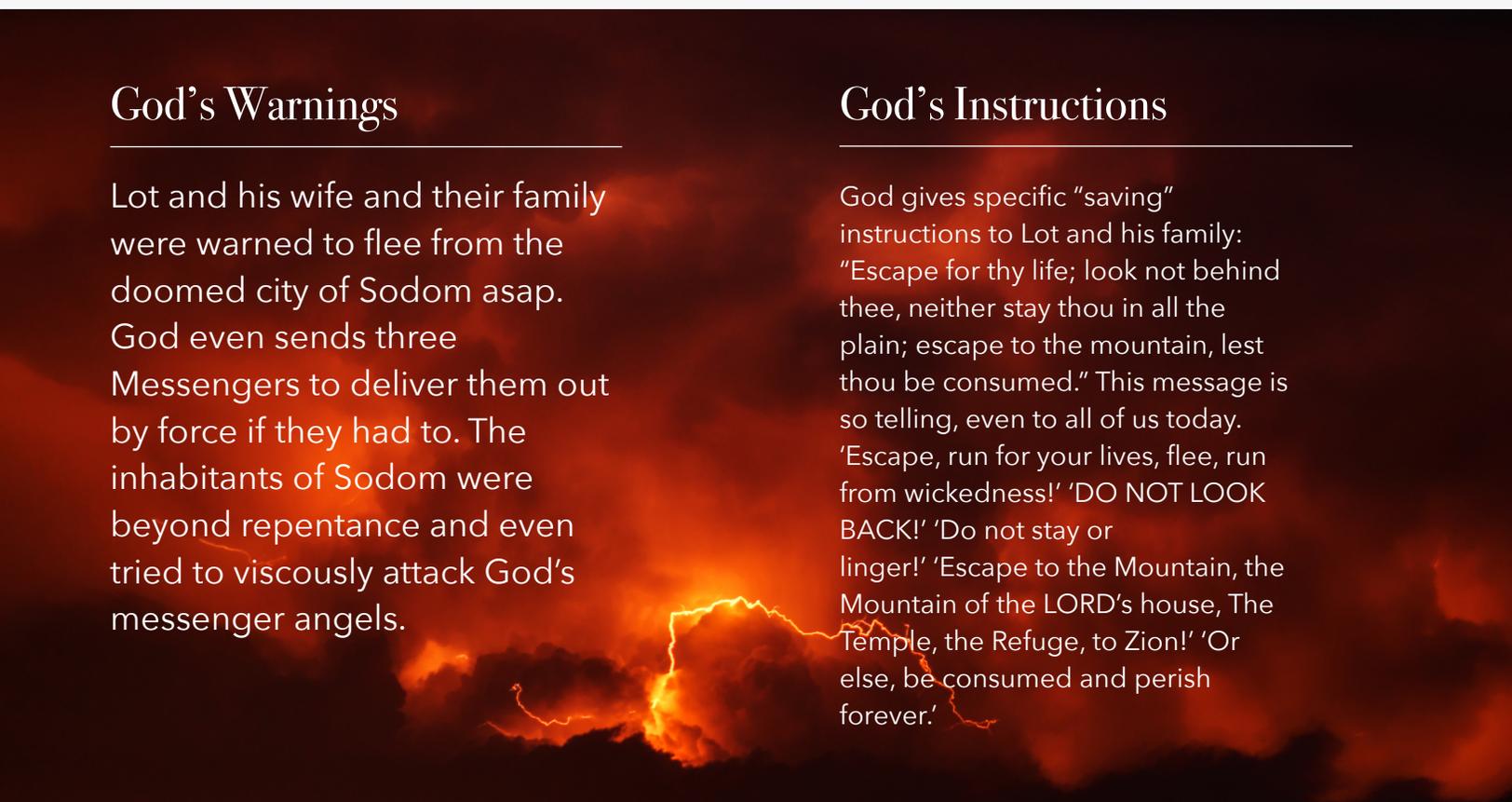
In contrast to these low and wicked cities is the exalted and righteous city of Zion established by the righteous Patriarch Enoch. Zion was the complete opposite—blessed and inhabited by God himself. Even though Zion had also disappeared from the face of the earth, unlike Sodom and Gomorrah, Zion was lifted up to the presence of God forever.

God’s Warnings

Lot and his wife and their family were warned to flee from the doomed city of Sodom asap. God even sends three Messengers to deliver them out by force if they had to. The inhabitants of Sodom were beyond repentance and even tried to viscously attack God’s messenger angels.

God’s Instructions

God gives specific “saving” instructions to Lot and his family: “Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.” This message is so telling, even to all of us today. ‘Escape, run for your lives, flee, run from wickedness!’ ‘DO NOT LOOK BACK!’ ‘Do not stay or linger!’ ‘Escape to the Mountain, the Mountain of the LORD’s house, The Temple, the Refuge, to Zion!’ ‘Or else, be consumed and perish forever.’



Fiery Rain From Heaven

The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is described as the God Yahovah “raining” down “sulphur” and “fire”. The “raining” of destruction is the same Hebrew word (*hityr* הִמְטִיר) used for the “raining” of the Flood and the “raining” of fiery hail upon Egypt.



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“And she became a pillar of salt.” וְתֵהִי נֹצֵיב מֶלַח



It is also very interesting that Lot’s name means “a Veil”. Lot survived by hearkening to the warnings of God who veiled him from the destruction. Lot’s wife was not so fortunate. Perhaps she left something in Sodom or perhaps wanted to give it a final

glance. Perhaps she was distracted by the clamor of destruction of the wicked. Nevertheless, she did not believe the warnings of God were important. Her pillar of salt still stands today overlooking the Dead Sea as you pass the hot and submerged desert where these cities once stood.

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